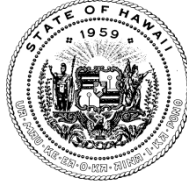


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



LATE

TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDUARDO P. MANGLALLAN
PATRICK H. MCCAIN
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 24, 2022
3:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Room 224/Teleconference

**S.C.R. 148/S.R. 132
CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION TO ADDRESS RAPIDLY ESCALATING COSTS
OF TRANSPORTATION IN HAWAII**

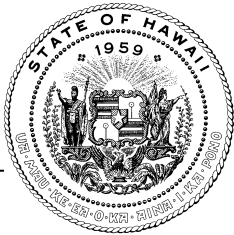
Senate Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) provides **comments** on this measure that proposes a task force to evaluate ways to lower costs of transportation.

The problem this measure aims to resolve is not limited to transportation alone. The user-generated environmental impacts of the State's transportation system are largely due to the structural pattern of land use and the distances between residential and job locations. This means programs, interventions, and solutions extend beyond the department's purview, and solutions must be comprehensive and involve many other stakeholders for this task force to achieve the intended outcome.

Further, this measure suggests that prioritizing pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and additional support of transit will reduce transportation costs. The DOT already supports efforts to improve multimodal usage of its facilities through a dedicated staff focused on multimodal transportation, an existing bicycle and pedestrian program, and Complete Streets policy and procedures, which mandate improvements to shared use facilities whenever the department works to preserve existing roads and bridges. The DOT also partners with the counties to plan and implement transit-supportive options on state facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

LATE

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

235 South Beretania Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Thursday, March 24, 2022
Time 3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

**SUPPORT
SCR 148 / SR 132
CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION TO ADDRESS RAPIDLY ESCALATING COSTS
OF TRANSPORTATION IN HAWAII.**

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers testimony in support of SCR148 / SR 132, calling for immediate action to address rapidly escalating costs of transportation in Hawaii.

HSEO is willing to participate on a task force to evaluate how the State can lower the cost of transportation. HSEO is guided by its statutory mission to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation to help achieve a resilient clean energy economy. As part of that responsibility, HSEO provides analysis and planning to actively develop and inform relevant policies with the Legislature, Public Utilities Commission, state agencies, and other relevant stakeholders.

The HSEO works with a broad range of state and federal agencies, industry stakeholders, and non-profit organizations on the decarbonization of ground transportation through the electrification of transportation covering both battery electric and hydrogen vehicles, as well as active transportation and reduction in vehicle miles traveled. HSEO suggests changing the HSEO representative from the "Director" of the State Energy Office to the "Chief Energy Officer" of the Hawaii State Energy Office, as the position is defined under Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 196-72.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
Thursday, March 24, 2022 — 3:00 p.m.

UluPono Initiative supports SCR 148, Calling for Immediate Action to Address Rapidly Escalating Costs of Transportation in Hawai'i.

Dear Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at UluPono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food; renewable energy and clean transportation; and better management of freshwater and waste.

UluPono supports SCR 148. UluPono supports multi-modal transportation and zero-emission transportation as ground transportation makes up a significant portion of Hawai'i's reliance on imported oil. We support Hawai'i's reduction of fossil fuel use as we strive to meet the State's 100% renewable energy goal and its carbon net neutral goal by 2045.

We also recognize that transportation costs are significant in Hawai'i, being the third-highest household annual expense (behind housing and food). Furthermore, our 2021 report "Annual Costs of the Vehicle Economy in Hawai'i" revealed that the costs amounted to \$21.8 billion per year. These costs include the direct and indirect costs associated with our automobile-dependent transportation system, spanning from public capital expenditures to private vehicle ownership costs to the price we pay for avoidable roadway fatalities.

We appreciate that this resolution seeks to convene a working group to examine how the State can lower the cost of transportation. While we recognize recent progress across the State and Counties, given the significant costs, the overall high demand for public funding, and future transportation trends, we think it is important to continue to think outside the box and explore a variety of options.

Doing so will not only help lower the cost of living in Hawai'i, it also helps make our communities more resilient, equitable, and climate-neutral.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

Director of Government Affairs

ADDRESS

3442 Wai'ālae Ave., Suite 1
Honolulu, HI 96816

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808-735-5756

**FAX**

808-735-7989

EMAIL

bicycle@HBL.org

March 24, 2022

3:00pm

State Capitol Teleconference

[SCR148/SR132](#)

Rapidly Escalating Costs of Transportation

SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Lee and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee,

The Hawaii Bicycling League supports [SCR148/SR132](#). Households in auto-dependent communities devote 20% more to transportation than those with Complete Streets. In [one study](#), 78% of respondents said they want to live in areas that help reduce their gas bills.

Auto-oriented, car-dependent cities are discriminatory against those who can't afford to drive or who cannot drive — the young, the elderly and the disabled. These people deserve safe, comfortable and convenient ways to get around the city.

In a [People for Bikes](#) study, 53% of people want to bike more but are concerned about their safety from car traffic. 64% of people who want to bike more say that protected bike lanes would help them bike more.

We understand making changes to our car-centric culture will not be easy. But change can happen with commitment, dedicated resources, and a solid plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Janel Sterbentz". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Janel Sterbentz

HBL Advocacy Leader



Hawaii
Children's Action Network Speaks!
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.

To: Senate Committee on Transportation

Re: **SCR 148 / SR 132 – Calling for Immediate Action to Address Rapidly Escalating Costs of Transportation in Hawaii**

Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

March 24, 2022, 3:00 PM

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing in SUPPORT of SCR 148 / SR 132, calling for immediate action to address rapidly escalating costs of transportation in Hawaii. These resolutions request the convening of a task force to evaluate how the State can lower the cost of transportation for individuals and families in Hawai'i.

It is well known that Hawai'i has the highest cost of living in the nation.¹ Before the pandemic, 42% of Hawai'i households couldn't afford basic necessities, including 61% of families headed by single fathers and 80% of those headed by single mothers.² That helps explain why Hawai'i's children rank 44th in the nation for economic well-being.³

Transportation costs are a large contributor to our high cost of living. For two-parent, two-child families, the **monthly** cost of transportation⁴ is:

- \$1,315 in Hawai'i County
- \$1,234 in Honolulu County
- \$1,315 in Kaua'i County
- \$1,314 in Maui County

That's why these resolutions are needed. If we want working families to stay and thrive in Hawai'i, we need to find ways to lower the cost of major household expenses, such as transportation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please pass these resolutions.

Thank you,
Nicole Woo
Director of Research and Economic Policy

¹ Bureau of Economic Analysis, <https://www.bea.gov/data/prices-inflation/regional-price-parities-state-and-metro-area>

² Aloha United Way, <https://www.unitedforalice.org/Hawaii>

³ Hawai'i KIDS COUNT, https://www.hawaii-can.org/kids_count_2021_hawaii_profile

⁴ Economic Policy Institute, <https://www.epi.org/resources/budget/budget-map/>